

Arizona Multimodal Freight Analysis

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 28th, 2007 1:30 - 3:30

Board Room of the ADOT Administration Building, 206 S. 17th Avenue



TAC Attendees:

Dianne Kresich, ADOT
Dale Buskirk, ADOT
Arnold Burnham, ADOT
Marc Pearsall, ADOT
Mark Meyers, ADOT
Bob Hazlett - MAG
Jermaine Hannon - FHWA
Nathan Banks - FHWA

Consultant Staff

Mark Berndt, WSA
Pam Keidel-Adams, WSA
Joe Gurskis, WSA
Rob Bohannon, Lima Associates
Arno Hart, RNO Group

TAC Members Attending by Phone:

John Liasotos, PAG
Bill Leister, CAAG
Dave Wessel - FMPO
Mack Luckie – YMPO

Others Attending by Phone:

Marisa Walker, CANAMEX

Meeting Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. Overview of Project Work Plan - Presentation & Q&A
3. TRANSEARCH Data Presentation and Discussion Stakeholder Outreach Plan - Presentation and discussion
4. Wrap-up and Next Steps

Introductions

Dianne Kresich, ADOT Project Manager led the introductions and pointed out that several members were also participating by conference call. Dianne noted that this was the first time that ADOT had undertaken a freight analysis of this magnitude to examine all modes of freight transport. She also indicated that the study would undertake three major tasks:

- An analysis of the freight industry in Arizona;
- An analysis of the infrastructure serving the freight industry, and;
- The development of a framework to assist ADOT incorporate freight as a factor in future planning efforts.

Ms. Kresich then turned the meeting over to Mark Berndt, the WSA Project Manager.

Overview of Project Work Plan - Presentation & O&A

Mark Berndt presented an overview of the study, discussing the three major tasks and providing additional details about work activities under each task. Mark also indicated that there were several issues that he would look to the TAC to provide direction, including:

- The make-up and coverage of TRANSEARCH commodity flow data.
- Directions on the formation of a freight advisory committee
- Direction on study outcomes such as performance measure, and the inclusion of specific low-cost project candidates

Questions and comments were welcomed from the TAC during the presentation:

- § Bob Hazlett of MAG commented on two other existing rail projects the consultant team should be aware of:
 - The Union Pacific (UP) has been given approval to reactivate the Buckeye to Yuma line, which might also include the addition of a classification yard.
 - The Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) is locating a classification yard in the City of Surprise
- § Dale Buskirk of ADOT indicated that any performance measures developed should be incorporated within ADOT's existing structure of performance factors.

TRANSEARCH Data Presentation and Discussion

Mark Berndt also made a slide presentation regarding the TRANSEARCH commodity flow database constructed and distributed by Global Insight. The presentation covered background about the nature and use of the database to the study, and presented various options for how the dataset can be specified. Variable affecting the cost of the data set included:

- Geographic scope and detail (county, state and BEA level)
- Commodity detail (2 or 4 digit STCC code)
- Data enhancements (empty trucks, through flows, international flows, etc.)
- Licensing Agreements (MPO/RDC data sharing arrangements)

Mr. Berndt also presented recommendations regarding the specifications most important to the goals of the study. A discussion that followed:

- § MPO representatives indicated that they had purchased TRANSEARCH for their planning and modeling activities in the past. MPOs also expressed an interest in seeing the data purchased using specifications that would also make the data useful to their agencies.
- § Marisa Walker from the CANAMEX corridor also expressed interest in having the more detailed commodity descriptions to assist efforts of the Department of Commerce at economic development.
- § Dale Buskirk indicated that ADOT staff would follow-up with the MPOs and Department of Commerce to discuss the data specifications and possible cost sharing arrangements in an effort to meet everyone's needs.
- § It was requested that Mark Berndt get four new cost estimates for the TRANSEARCH data, based upon the following specifications:
 - Option 1: STCC-2, with the geography of: AZ county level, surrounding states (CA, UT, NV, CO and NM) at a BEA level and remaining jurisdictions state level
 - Option 2: STCC-2, AZ at the zip code level, surrounding states (CA, UT, NV, CO and NM) at a BEA level and remaining jurisdictions state level
 - Option 3: STCC-4, the geography of: AZ county level, surrounding states (CA, UT, NV, CO and NM) at a BEA level and remaining jurisdictions state level
 - Option 4: STCC-4, AZ at the zip code level, surrounding states (CA, UT, NV, CO and NM) at a BEA level and remaining jurisdictions state level

Stakeholder Outreach Presentation and Discussion

Mark Berndt also discussed the stakeholder outreach activities for the study. One of the issues that should be contemplated by ADOT and members of the TAC is the creation of an external Freight Advisory Committee that could be identified during the stakeholder interview process. Once the committee was identified, ADOT would need to decide if the committee would exist only to support the study effort, or continue to meet and advise ADOT as part of future freight planning activities.

Mr. Berndt also reviewed a workshop presented by FHWA through the Freight Professional Development Program. The workshop; "Engaging the Private Sector" can currently be hosted by DOTs and MPOs at no cost. The workshop provides an overview of:

- Why engaging business interests in the private sector are important to the transportation planning process;
- Who freight stakeholders are;
- What activities have been successfully employed to get private sector input into the planning process.

In the discussion that followed Jermaine Hannon of FHWA indicated that ADOT was already in the process of hosting the Freight 101 Course (Integrating Freight into the Transportation Planning Process), and that the workshop would be a good follow-up training opportunity.

Wrap-up

Dianne Kresich closed the meeting by indicating that the work plan submitted by the consultants had been approved, and the study was now set to move forward.

Dianne also indicated that the next TAC meeting would not be scheduled until there was sufficient information to present, which would likely be in 2-3 months.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30.